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HOUSE BILL 2587 By
McDonald

SENATE BILL 2907
By Graves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, relative to
standing referrals to specialists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, is amended by adding
Section 2 of this act as a new, appropriately designated part.

SECTION 2. (a) For the purpose of this act, the term "health insurance issuer" means
an entity regulated under this title that offers health insurance coverage, which shall include any
individual, franchise, blanket or group health insurance policy, medical service plan contract,
hospital service corporation contract, hospital and medical service corporation contract, fraternal
benefit society contract, or such contract with a health maintenance organization or managed
care organization but such term specifically does not include health care provided under the
TennCare program.

(b) Each health insurance issuer shall develop and maintain written policies and
procedures for the provision of standing referrals to subscribers or enrollees with chronic and
disabling conditions which require ongoing specialty care. The standing referral shall be for a
period not to exceed twelve (12) months. Under such procedures, the primary care physician
shall not be required to see the subscriber or enrollee following the initial referral to the
specialist at least until the beginning of the plan year following such referral.

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SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it and shall apply to all health care contracts or plans to which this act applies issued or renewed on or after such date.